A WILTON
HOW-TO BOOK

Wilton

makes it easy to create

BEAUTIFUL GUM PASTE FLOWERS

A gift from Cachetona

Apple blossom

A dainty, airy little flower that makes a pretty trim for a cake or a lovely spring arrangement. The apple blossom is one of the easiest flowers to make in gum paste.

You will need:

Pink-tinted gum paste, a piece about 1"x1"x½"
Green gum paste
Rolling pin
Apple blossom cutter
Plastic wrap
Thin foam square
Stick 1
Small glass of water
Artist's brush
Twelve 6" lengths of thin florists' wire
Artificial stamens
Decorating bag or cone
Royal icing tinted yellow and tube 1
Styrofoam block

1. Make a tiny hook at one end of each wire. Roll out your gum paste to about 1/16" thick on greased surface as directed on page 3. Cut out six shapes with the apple blossom cutter. Place one on a square of thin foam. Cover the remaining shapes with plastic wrap.

2. Cup petals by gently pressing the center of each petal with the rounded end of stick 1. Hold stick upright and press straight down.

3. Break off a tiny piece of gum paste and roll between your fingers to a ball about ¼" in diameter. (Dust your finger tips with cornstarch if necessary.) Dip hook of wire in water, shake off excess. Slide the ball onto the wire until the hook is buried in the ball.

4. Brush top of ball with water and gently press flower onto it.

5. Cut about six artificial stamens to ¼" length. Using tube 1 and yellow royal icing, pipe a ball in the center of the flower. Push in stamens, then stick stem of flower into styrofoam to dry.

Make five more flowers in assembly-line method. First cup all petals. Attach all flowers to wire stems (Steps 3 and 4). Add stamens to all. Your original piece of gum paste will make up to 50 apple blossoms.

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This lesson will be your most enjoyable! You'll learn to make four dramatic flowers that appear to be almost impossible to re-create in gum paste. But you can do it—easily. Just follow the actual-size steps in the pictures and watch the lovely flowers take form.

Rose

Everyone's best-loved flower! Make this basic form of the multi-petaled rose—then you will be able to create any of its famous varieties.

You will need:

A 6" length of stiff wire, tiny hook at one end
Tinted gum paste, a piece about 1"x1"x¼"
Rolling pin
Small, medium and large rose petal cutters
Thin foam
Plastic wrap
Stick 1
Water and artist's brush
Calyx cutter and green gum paste
Small carnation cutter (for bud)
Styrofoam block

1. Ahead of time, form the base for the rose. Break off a bit of gum paste and form into a ball about ½" in diameter. Dip hooked end of wire in water. Shake off excess. Slide the ball up the wire until the hook is buried. Now model the ball into a tear-drop shape. Stick in styrofoam to dry.

2. Cut out the petals. Cut four with the smallest cutter, five with the medium cutter and seven with the largest cutter. Place one of the smallest petals on thin foam, cover others with plastic wrap.

3. Use stick 1 like a rolling pin to thin the petal on one side only.

4. Moisten the thicker side of the petal with water and wrap it around the base, thinned side up. Furl the thinned edge with your finger.

5. Roll a second small petal on the rounded end, leaving the pointed end unthinned. Brush the pointed end with water, then press it against the lower part of the base. Furl the top on right side.

6. Repeat Step 5 with remaining small petals. Each overlaps half of the petal already attached.

7. Now roll the curved side of a medium petal with stick 1 to thin it. Brush a little water on the pointed end and press to base. Furl the right side of the petal.

8. Repeat Step 7 for four more petals, spacing them evenly on the base and furling the right side of each.

9. Make a row of the seven largest petals. Roll the rounded end of the petal to thin, moisten pointed end of petal and press to base.

10. Repeat Step 9 with remaining six largest petals, spacing evenly and always furling the right side. The rose has taken form!

11. Roll out green gum paste as thin as possible. Cut out with calyx cutter, lay on thin foam and roll with stick 1 to thin and elongate the points. Moisten center with water and thread up wire. Press against base of rose.

12. Model a pea-sized ball, moisten top with water and thread up wire.

13. Curl points of calyx with pointed end of stick 1. The rose is complete!

Making the rosebud

1. Prepare a base, just as you did for the rose. Cut out two shapes with the small carnation cutter. Place on thin foam.

2. Elongate each into an oval by using stick 1 like a rolling pin.

3. Ruffle the edges of each by rolling with stick 1 (see page 14, paragraph 3). Leave one long side unruffled. Moisten half of the center area of one oval with water and lay second oval on it.

4. Brush a little water on the lower part of the base and wrap ruffled shapes around it, keeping unruffled side down and pressing to attach.

5. Add ball and calyx, just as in Steps 11, 12, and 13 of the rose.

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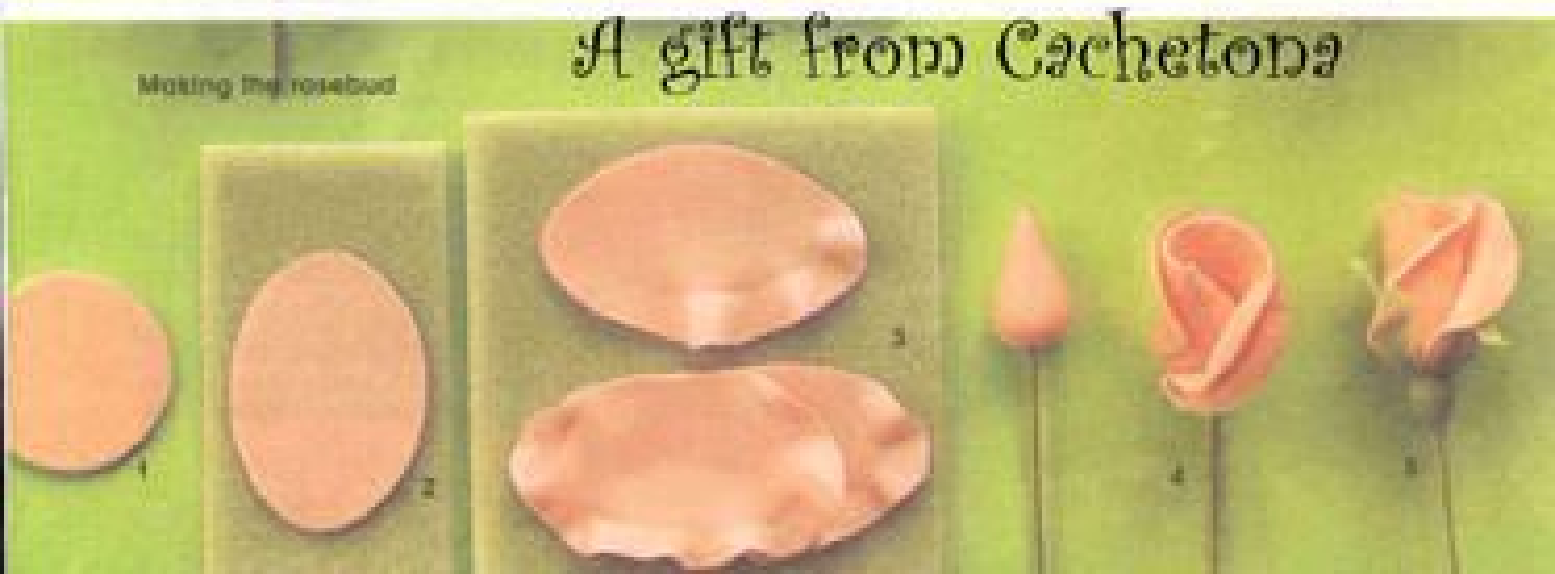
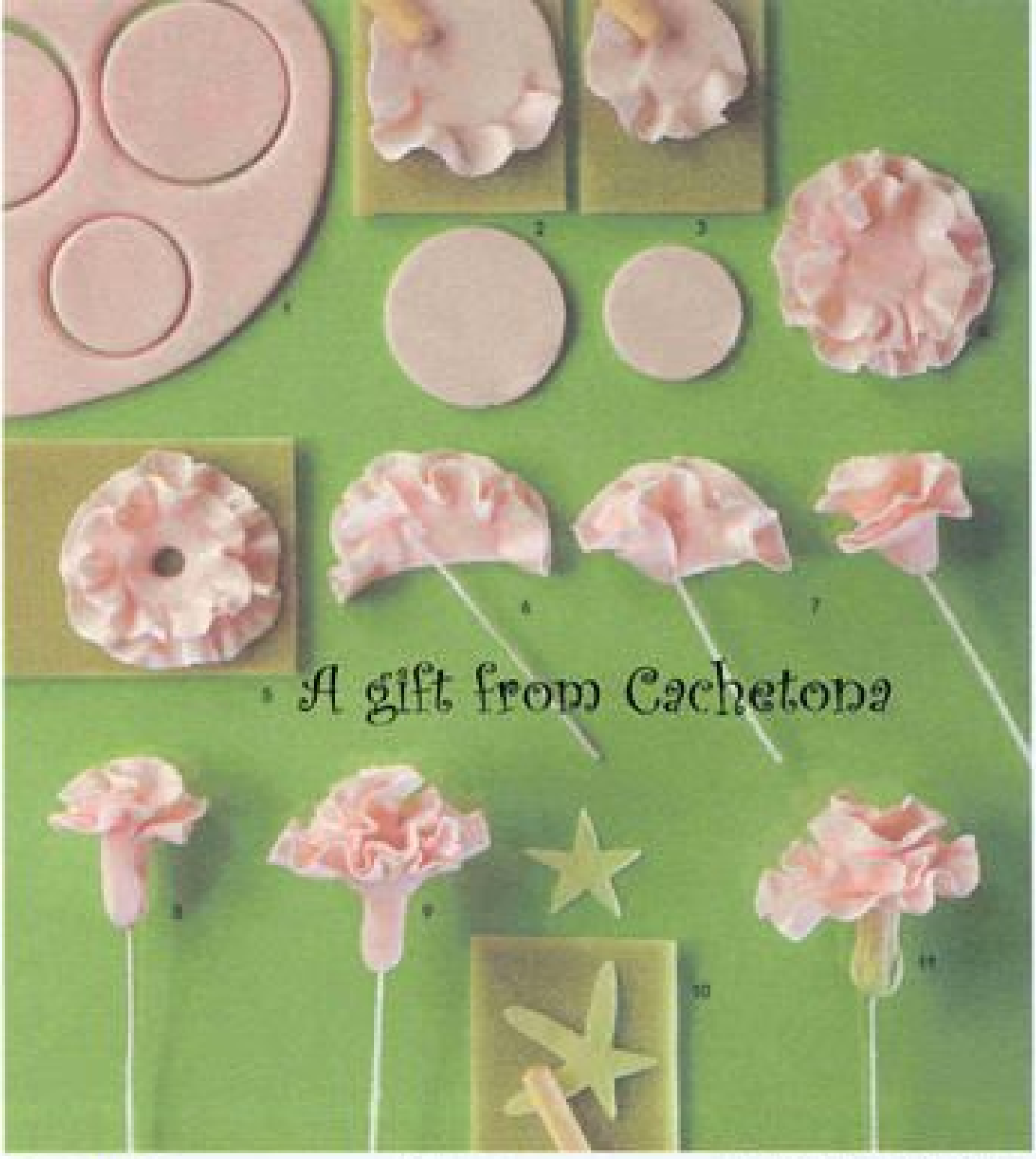




Carnation

Practice ruffling—then the carnation is quick and easy.

You will need:

Pink-tinted gum paste, a piece about 1" x 1" x 1"
Rolling pin
Large and small carnation cutters
Thin foam square
Plastic wrap
Cornstarch in small container
Stick 1
Water and artist's brush
A 9" length of stiff wire, hook at one end
Calyx cutter, green gum paste
Styrofoam block

1. Roll out gum paste to ⅛" thickness. Cut out two shapes with the large carnation cutter, another with the small cutter. Sprinkle your foam square with cornstarch and work it in with your fingers. Lay one large shape on the foam square, cover others with plastic wrap.

2. Ruffle the edge of the shape all around by rolling with the round end of stick 1, leaving a ½" area in the center unruffled. Roll the stick

firmly forward with a pushing motion, then roll it back toward yourself more lightly. Roll the stick back a slightly greater distance than forward. Work quickly. If necessary, dip the stick in cornstarch from time to time so it won't stick to the gum paste. Turn the foam square as you ruffle.

3. Now ruffle a small shape.

4. Brush water on center of large shape, lay small shape on it.

5. Lay doubled shape on thin foam and press lightly with round end of stick 1 to cup. Press again firmly so stick makes a hole.

6. Make insert. Ruffle a large shape just as in Step 2. Brush center with water and fold in half. Dip hooked end of a wire in water and lay on folded shape.

7. Fold one side of shape over wire, then fold other side of shape over.

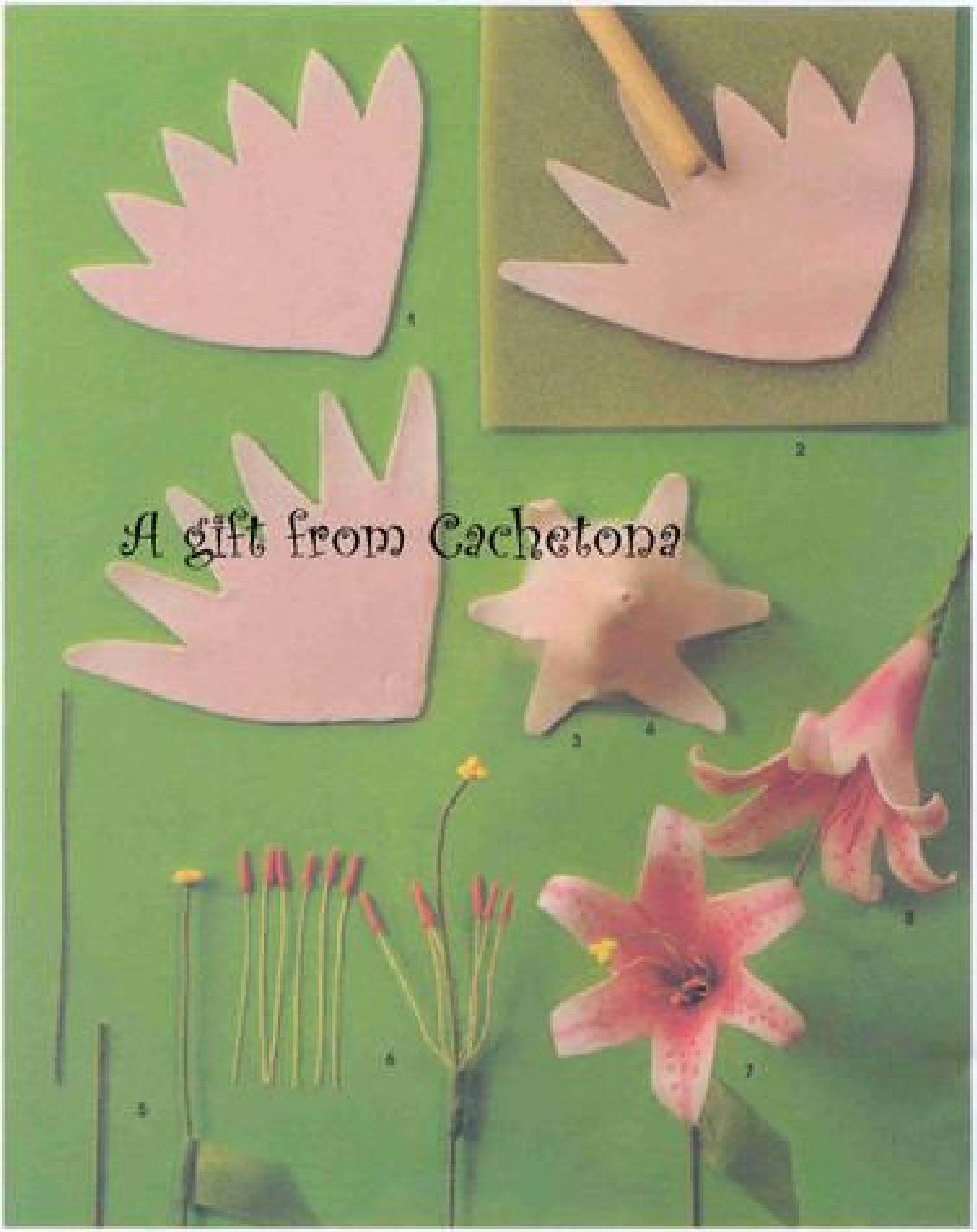
8. With your fingers, work the base of the insert down the wire to form the long throat of the flower.

9. Brush upper part of throat with water, then pull the insert down through the hole in the doubled shape. Press and smooth with your fingers to join. Stick in styrofoam to dry 20 minutes.

10. Roll out green gum paste to 1/16" thickness and cut out two shapes with the calyx cutter. Lay on thin foam. Roll with stick 1 to elongate points.

11. Brush elongated calyx lightly with water and thread it up the stem to the throat of the flower. Smooth around throat with your fingers. Brush second calyx with water and thread it up the stem. Smooth again.

To make the leaf, roll green gum paste to 1/16" thickness. Cut with the large rose petal cutter, then follow the steps in the picture.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Lily

A flower of astonishing beauty and variety from the snowy Easter lily to the roadside tiger lily and all the colorful hybrids. Here we reproduce Pink Champion—but you can make many other lilies with a similar method. Complete one flower first, then make three more. Your piece of gum paste is enough for four lilies.

You will need:

Pink tinted gum paste, a piece about 2"x2"x⅛"
Rolling pin
Lily cutter
Plastic wrap
Thin foam square
Stick 1
Small glass of water
Cotton balls
Artist's brush
Colored chalks
Artificial stamens
4" lengths of fine wire
9" lengths of stiff wire
Floral tape
Decorating bag or cone
Tube 1 and royal icing

1. Roll out gum paste to about 1/16" thickness. Cut out four shapes with the lily cutter. Place one on thin foam, cover others with plastic wrap.

2. With rounded end of stick 1, gently pull from base of each petal to point. Repeat twice more to elongate petals.

3. Brush a strip of water along one side of shape and fold the other side around to form a cone shape. Hold the cone on your index finger and smooth the seam with your thumb.

4. Drop a cotton ball in the flower and place it upside down. Wrap each petal around stick 1 to give it a curve. Dry overnight.

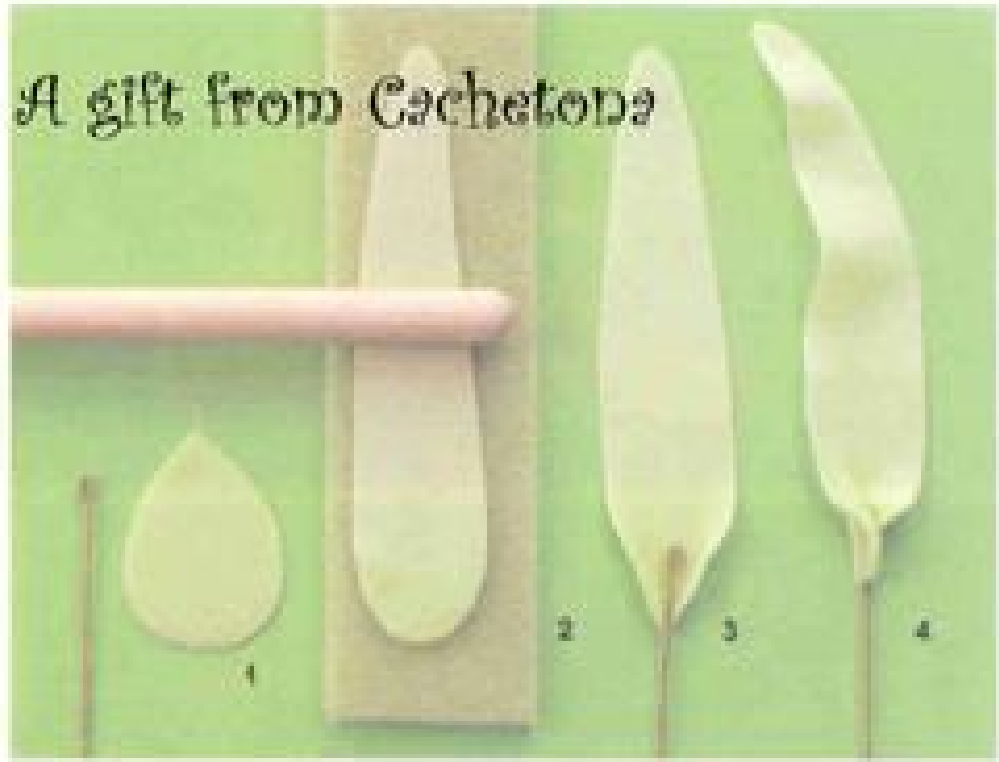
5. Make stamens and stem, observing pictures carefully so measurements are correct. Wrap fine wire and stiff wire together with floral tape, overlapping wires about ½". Pipe three dots on end of fine wire.

6. Cut off tips of six artificial stamens. Insert end of each through hole in tube 1 and press bag very lightly as you draw out stamen. Tape stamens to fine wire, applying tape to the same area as shown in Step. 5.

7. Join tips of your forefinger and thumb to form a circle. Let dried flower rest in this circle as you brush green chalk deep within the throat of the flower. Now brush pink chalk within the flower, drawing it out to a line in the center of each petal. Add spots by dampening brush, touching it to chalk and applying to flower. Now insert your prepared stem through the hole in the flower. Tape the stem right up against the base of the flower to secure it, then complete taping stem.

8. Brush pink chalk on outside of flower. Your brilliant lily is complete!

Make three more lilies with remaining cut-out shapes. Complete all through Step 4. Prepare stems and stamens for all (Steps 5 and 6), then chalk and assemble all three lilies.



The lily leaf

1. Roll green gum paste 1/16" thick on greased surface and cut with the largest rose petal cutter. Place on thin foam.

2. Roll the shape lengthwise with stick 1, using it like a rolling pin.

3. Dip the end of a 3" length of fine wire into water. Shake off excess and place on base of leaf. Fold leaf around wire.

4. Arrange the leaf in ripples with your fingers and dry overnight.

The forget-me-not, chrysanthemum, pansy and orchid

This wonderful array of flowers teaches us several things about the art of flower making. The forget-me-not is a good example of a production-line flower to be made with great speed. As you make the pansy you'll learn just how thin you can roll the petals and the colorful effects that chalk can give.

The chrysanthemum with all its curly petals appears complicated to do—but only simple techniques are needed to create this handsome fall flower.

The regal orchid is actually an easy flower to make! Do the throat and petals separately—then put them together for a breathtaking effect!

Forget-me-not

A tiny, quick-to-make flower, that you'll use as a dainty cake decoration, or as a "filler" in a bouquet.

You will need:

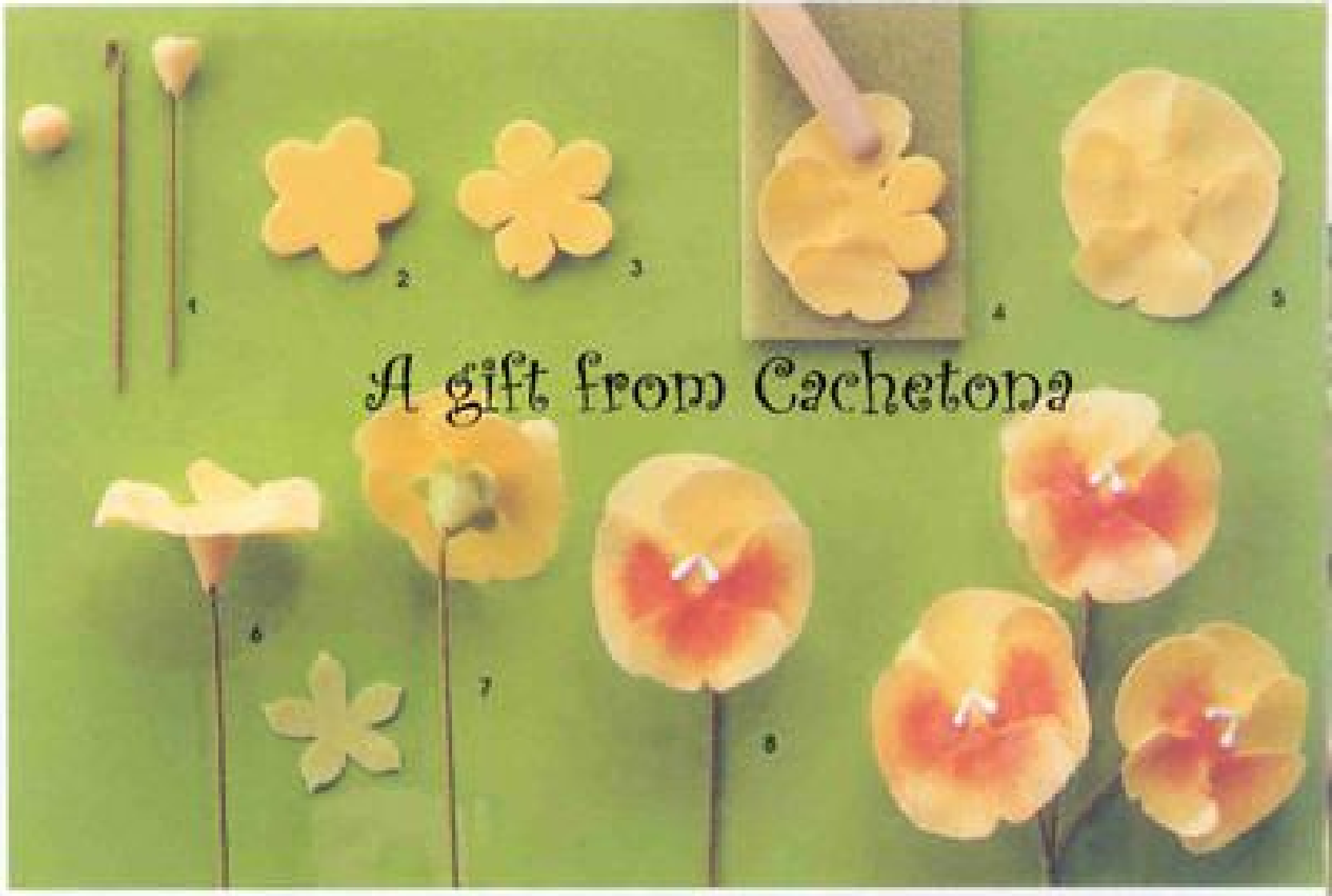
3" lengths of fine wire
Marble-sized piece of blue gum paste
Rolling pin
Forget-me-not cutter
Thin foam square
Stick 1
Water and artist's brush
Decorating cone, tube 1, royal icing
Styrofoam block

1. Prepare stems. Make a tiny hook at one end of each wire. Now bend the hooks so they form a right angle to the stem. A needle-nose pliers makes this easy.

2. Roll out the gum paste as thin as possible. Cut five shapes with the cutter and lay on thin foam. Press center of each with round end of stick 1, holding it straight up.

3. Dip hook of wire in water, shake off excess and gently press flower to it. Stick stem in styrofoam.

4. Pipe a yellow dot in the center of each flower. Dry.



Pansy

Start with a simple five-petaled shape to create these brilliant flowers. The formation of the paper-thin petals and the colorful "patches" make the gum paste pansy "just like real".

You will need:

Five 6" lengths of stiff wire, each hooked at one end
Tinted gum paste, a piece about 1"x1"x½"
Rolling pin
Pansy cutter
Plastic wrap
Thin foam
Stick 1
Calyx cutter and green gum paste
Colored chalk
Decorating cone or bag
Tube 1 and royal icing
Styrofoam block

1. Prepare stem. Roll a bit of gum paste with your fingers into a ball the size of a pea. Dip hook on wire in water, shake off excess. Thread ball up the wire until the hook is buried. Form the ball into a flat-topped cone.

2. Roll out gum paste to about 1/16" thickness. Cut out five shapes with the pansy cutter.

3. Separate the petals by making a tiny cut with a sharp knife at each indentation. Cut a tiny notch in the edge of one petal. Place one shape on thin foam. Cover others with plastic wrap.

4. Roll each petal sideways with the round end of stick 1 to thin and broaden. Do not roll the center of the shape.

5. Note that notched petal overlaps the petals on either side, two top petals are behind lower petals.

6. Brush top of cone on wire with water and gently press flower shape to it. Stick stem in styrofoam to dry.

7. Roll green gum paste as thin as possible and cut five shapes with the calyx cutter. Cover four shapes with plastic wrap. Brush center of one shape with water. Slide up wire and form over cone shape. Touch points with stick to curl.

8. Brush petals with chalk, starting at center and moving outward. Finish by piping a tiny "V" for stamen with royal icing.

Complete other pansies. Roll and attach to stems as in Steps 4 and 5. Add calyxes to all. Finish all with chalk and stamens.

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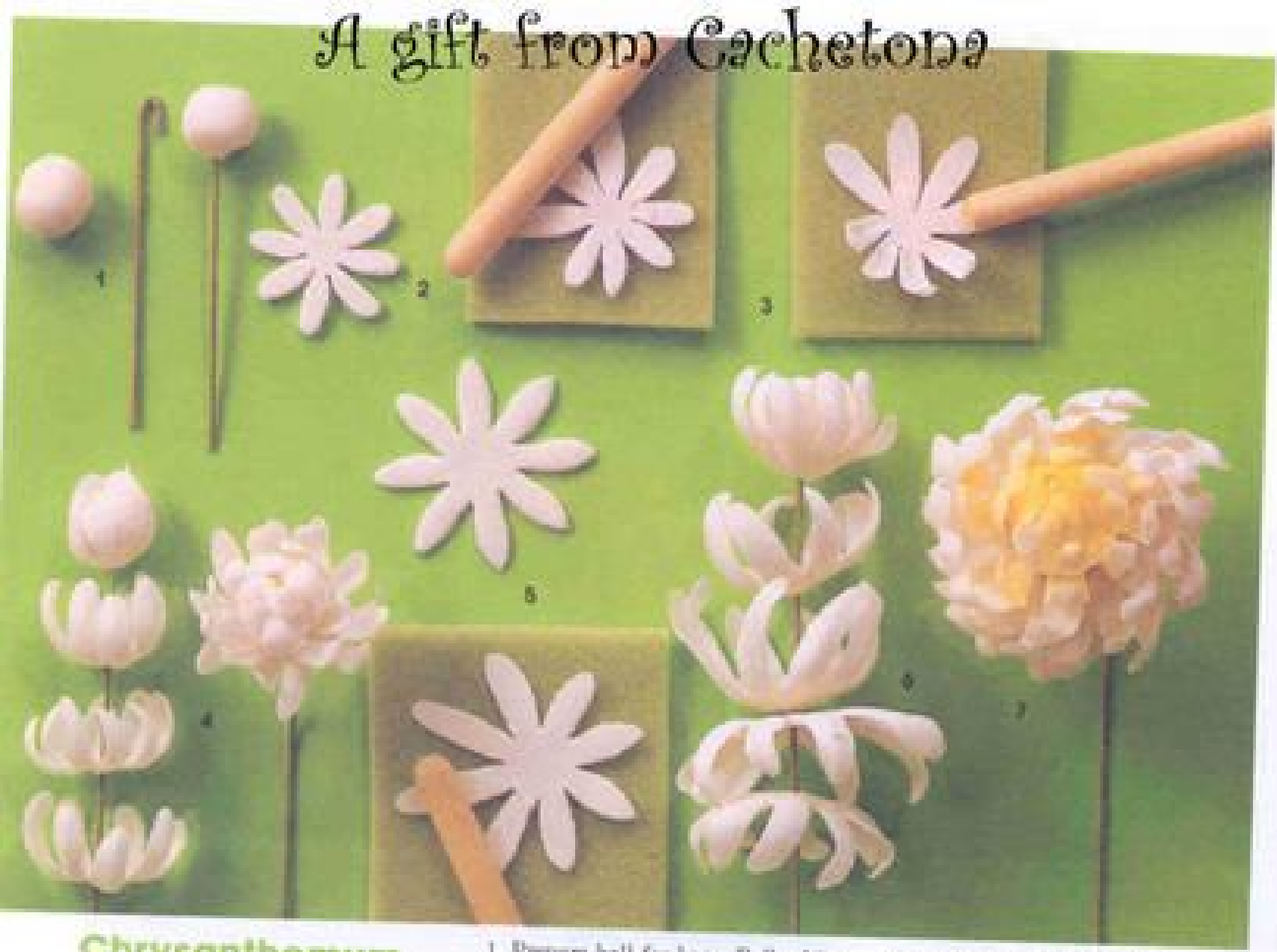

Chrysanthemum

Start with a ball, add eight petal sections—a big fluffy flower blooms!

You will need:

6" length of stiff wire, tiny hook at one end
Gum paste, a piece about 1" x 1" x ⅛"
Small and large daisy cutters
Thin foam square
Stick 1
Water and artist's brush
Floral tape
Chalk and artist's brush
Styrofoam block

1. Prepare ball for base. Roll a bit of gum paste with your fingers to form a ball about ½" in diameter. Dip hook of wire in water, shake off excess, then thread ball up wire until hook is buried. Stick wire in styrofoam to dry overnight.

2. Roll out gum paste about 1/16" thick. Cut out four shapes with the small daisy cutter. Lay one on thin foam and use stick 1 like a rolling pin to thin petals. (Do not roll center.)

3. Curl petals by gently pulling the round end of stick 1 from tip of petal to center. Repeat Steps 2 and 3 for other three shapes.

4. Brush centers of all curled shapes *lightly* with water. Thread one shape up wire and press around ball. Repeat with other shapes, pressing to attach at center.

5. Cut out four shapes with the large daisy cutter. Roll petal areas to elongate and thin, then curl petals with stick 1 as in Step 3.

6. Brush centers of shapes *lightly* with water, then thread up wire, first two shapes curling upward, then two shapes curling downward. Press centers to attach, then fluff petals with pointed end of stick.

7. Wind floral tape smoothly around stem, starting at base of flower. Brush center petals lightly with chalk. Stick stem in styrofoam to dry overnight.

Orchid

Yes, you can make this queen of all flowers—quickly and easily! Do the steps carefully in order—first form the throat, then do smooth and ruffled petals. Finally, assemble the flower.

You will need:

Untinted gum paste, a piece 1"x1"x⅛"
Rolling pin
Orchid throat, daffodil petal and tulip cutters
Thin foam
Plastic wrap
Sticks 1 and 2
Leaf mold
6" length of stiff wire, tiny hook at one end
Water and artist's brush
Cotton
Yellow chalk

Form the orchid throat

1. Roll out gum paste about ⅛" thick and cut out a shape with the orchid throat cutter.

2. Lay on thin foam and use stick 1 like a rolling pin to thin and elongate sides and top. Leave center and base thick.

3. Ruffle edge with stick 2 (see step 2, page 18). Do not ruffle straight base of shape.

4. Press firmly in leaf mold to vein.

5. Dip brush in water, shake off excess and moisten base and lower left side. Wrap the shape around your forefinger, smooth seam with thumb and pinch base to close. Bend hook on wire at right angle (see wire on page 21). Moisten hook, then thread through throat of flower to base. Brush inside of throat with yellow chalk. Curve with your fingers and lay across

Daisy

A fresh, summery flower done in two pieces—and almost as easy to make as the apple blossom. Make one complete daisy first—then make four more in assembly-line method.

You will need:

Untinted gum paste, a piece about 1½"x1½"x½"
Rolling pin and stick 1
Large daisy cutter
Plastic wrap
Thin foam square
Small glass of water
Artist's brush
Stiff wire cut in 6" lengths, one end bent into a tiny hook
Decorating bag or cone
Tube 1 and yellow royal icing
Styrofoam block

1. Lightly grease work surface and lay gum paste on it. Roll out to 1/16" thickness.(See page 3.) Cut out ten shapes with the cutter.

2. Lay one shape on thin foam square. Cover remaining shapes with plastic wrap. Roll *petal areas only* with stick 1 to thin and lengthen them. Use the stick like a rolling pin. *Do not roll center.*

3. With thinned shape still on foam, pull the pointed end of the stick, held almost horizontally, gently from center to tip of each petal. Do not touch center area of flower. Set shape aside.

4. Thin a second cut-out daisy shape by rolling, just as you did the first. Pull stick on each petal, just as before.

5. Dip brush in water and paint center area of the daisy shape you have thinned last. Lay other daisy shape on it, making sure petals fall between petals of daisy shape below. Press your finger in center of daisy. Petals will curve naturally. Dry about an hour.

6. Add a stem to your daisy. Roll a little piece of gum paste into a ball the size of a small pea. Dip the hooked end of the wire into water. Shake off excess. Working quickly, push the plain end of the wire through the gum paste ball, until the hook is buried in the ball. Brush the top of the ball with water. Lay the daisy on the ball and press lightly on the center of the flower to attach. Work lower part of ball up to flower above with your fingers. Stick wire in styrofoam.

7. Dry overnight, then fill the center area of the daisy with tube 1 dots for stamens.

To speed your work, use an assembly-line method. Thin petals of each shape, then apply stick to petals of all. Join pairs of daisy shapes with water and press to fluff and attach. Now add wire stems to all four daisies. If you handle the flowers carefully so as not to loosen the stems, you may add the piped stamens immediately, without waiting for the flower to dry. You will have spent less than two minutes per flower! As you progress, you will be able to do seven or eight daisies at a time.

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rolling pin to dry overnight.

Make three smooth petals

6. Roll out gum paste 1/16" thick and cut a shape with the daffodil petal cutter and one with the tulip cutter. Lay daffodil petal shape on thin foam. Cover other shape with plastic wrap.

7. Use stick 1 like a rolling pin to elongate petals.

8. Form a "doughnut" with cotton, a full 1" high and 4" across. Lay petal shape within it, adjusting to form a "Y".

Immediately make the two ruffled petals.

9. Trim off one petal of the tulip shape.

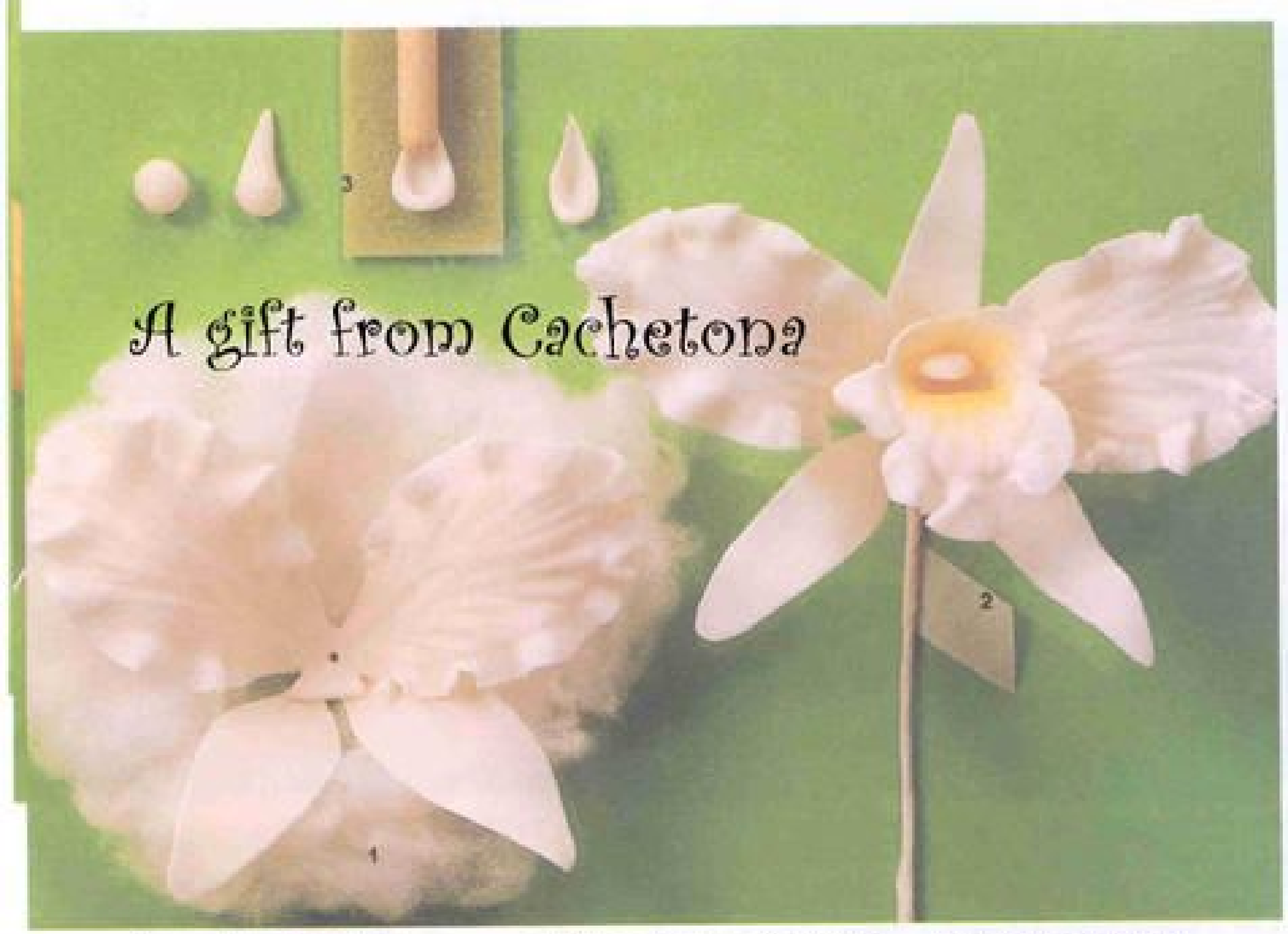
10. Lay on thin foam and use stick 1 like a rolling pin to thin and elongate.

11. Press a petal firmly on a leaf mold to vein.

12. Vein second petal.

13. Lay shape on thin foam and ruffle edges with stick 2.

Please turn the page to see assembly of petals and throat of orchid.



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Assembly of orchid

1. Brush center of smooth petals with water. Lay ruffled petal shape on smooth petals in cotton "doughnut". Curve with your fingers. Now make a hole in the center with a stiff wire. *Dry thoroughly overnight.*

2. Gently pull wire stem on orchid throat through hole in dried petals. Wrap stem in floral tape, starting right up against base of flower to secure. Stick stem in styrofoam.

3. Make stamen. Form a pea-sized ball of gum paste. Pinch into tear-drop shape. Lay on foam and press with rounded end of stick 1 to form a hollow. Lay hollow side of stamen on end of stick, moisten back and insert it in throat of orchid. Press lightly to secure. Your regal orchid is complete!

Study the next page to see how to make a beautiful bridal corsage with your orchid as the centerpiece.

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Stephanotis

Make this dainty pristine little flower very quickly. Rolling and pulling the petals with stick 2 makes them almost translucent.

You will need:

Untinted gum paste, a piece about 1"x1"x⅛"
Rolling pin
Stephanotis cutter
Thin foam
Sticks 1 and 2
Five 3" lengths of fine wire, tiny hook at one end of each
Water and artist's brush
Forget-me-not cutter
Green gum paste
Green chalk
Styrofoam block

1. Roll out gum paste on greased surface to 1/32" thickness. Cut out five shapes with the stephanotis cutter. Lay one on thin foam, cover others with plastic wrap.

2. Roll each little petal sideways with stick 2.

3. Now pull the petals lengthwise.

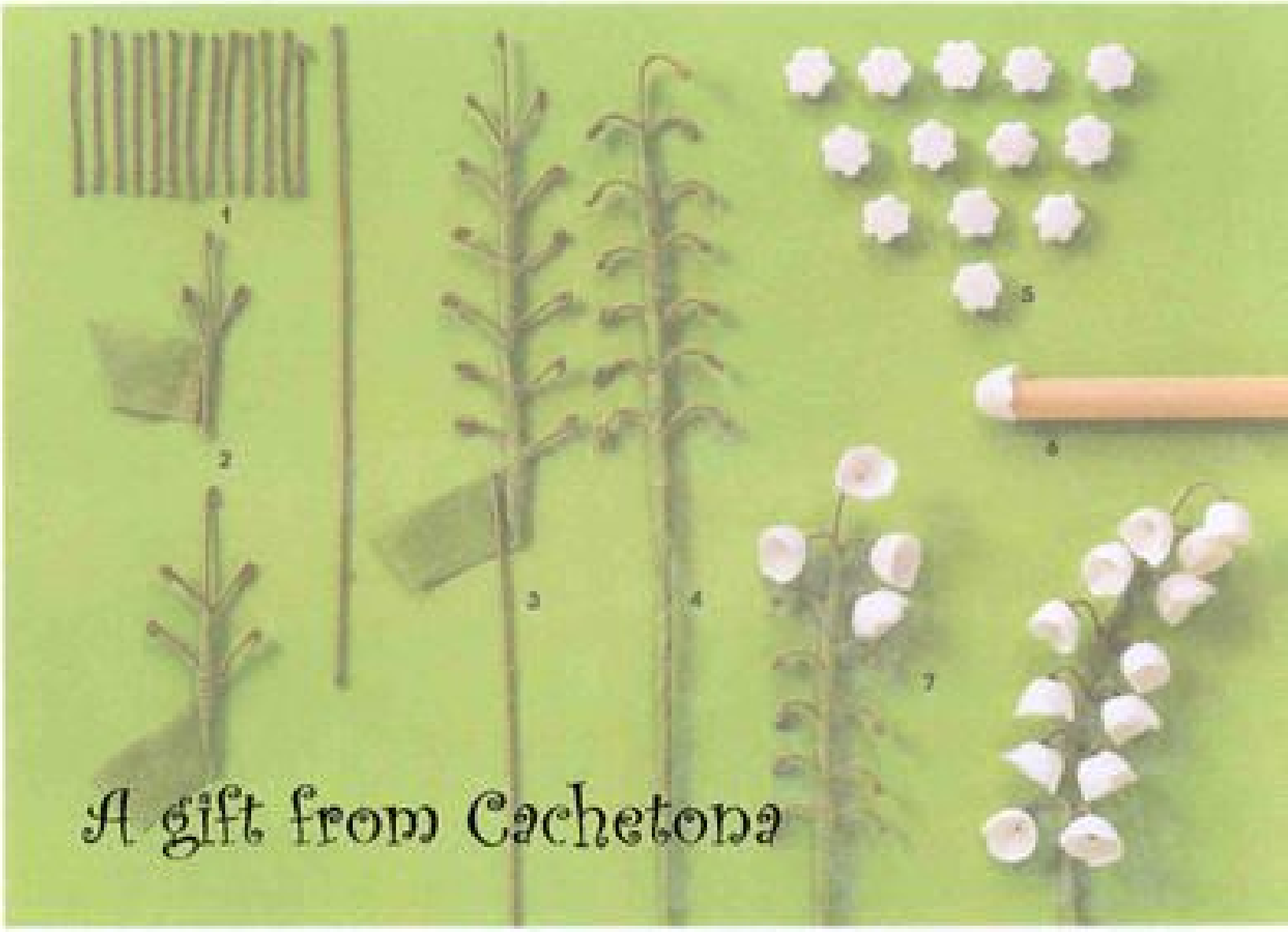
4. Roll the extension on the left side of the shape to thin it.

5. Dip hooked end of wire in water, shake off excess and lay on the side of shape opposite the extension.

6. Roll the shape around the wire, pressing gently to smooth seam and shape rounded base of throat. Make four more flowers, then touch petals with pointed end of stick 1 to open.

7. Roll green gum paste as thin as possible and cut five shapes with the forget-me-not cutter. These will be calyxes. Make a hole in the center of each with the pointed end of the stick.

8. Brush center of calyx lightly with water and slide it up the wire, pressing against base of throat to attach. Brush throat lightly with green chalk. Stick stem in styrofoam to dry overnight.



Lily of the Valley

Make a spray of these tiny bell-shaped flowers in a new and surprisingly quick method.

You will need:

13 1½" pieces of fine wire
One 4" length of stiff wire
Floral tape
Gum paste, a piece, about 1" square, ⅛" thick
Rolling pin
Lily of the valley cutter
Stick 1
Small glass of water
Artist's brush
Styrofoam block

1. Make stem first. Bend one end of each fine wire ¼". A small pliers makes this easy. The wire should be bent, rather than just hooked.

2. Tape three wires together, center wire about ¼" above two lower wires. Continue taping pairs of wires, each pair about ¼" below pair above.

3. When all fine wires have been taped, tape on the 4" length of stiff wire. Continue taping to end of stiff wire.

4. Bend each fine wire over stick 1 to give a graceful curve.

5. Roll gum paste to ¼" thickness (much thicker than for most other flowers). Cut out 13 shapes with the cutter.

6. Hold stick 1 upright in your left hand. Lay a shape on the rounded end and cup over the stick with the fingers of your right hand. *Do not push* the shape over the stick — simply thin the petal edges by pushing against the stick, leaving the base of the flower thick. Do the same to all the other shapes.

7. Attach flowers to stem. Brush three or four bent ends of wire lightly with water. Push the shape gently onto the wire, until wire is just visible on inside of flower. Attach all remaining flowers the same way. Stick completed spray into styrofoam to dry overnight. Gently bend the spray into a natural curve.

Bluebell

These delicate bells of purest blue have been garden favorites for many centuries.

You will need:

Five 6" lengths of fine wire
Blue gum paste, a piece about 1" x 1" x ⅛"
A marble-sized piece of green gum paste
Rolling pin
Calyx and lily of the valley cutters
Plastic wrap
Thin and thick foam
Stick 1
Water and artist's brush
Decorating cone or bag
Royal icing and tube 1s

1. Prepare wire stem. Make a tight hook in one end of a wire. Form a tiny ball of gum paste with your fingers. Dip hook of wire in water, shake off excess and thread ball up wire until hook is buried.

2. Roll out blue gum paste ⅛" thick. Cut five shapes with the calyx cutter. Lay one on thin foam, cover others with plastic wrap.

3. Use stick 1 like a rolling pin to thin and enlarge the shape.

4. Roll out green gum paste as thin as possible. Cut five shapes with the lily of the valley cutter and five with the calyx cutter.

5. Place one tiny lily shape on the blue calyx shape, cover other shapes with plastic wrap.

6. Lay blue calyx shape on thick foam. Press center with round end of stick 1. A bell shape is formed.

7. Lay a green calyx shape on thin foam. Holding stick 1 almost horizontally, draw pointed end from center to tip of each point. Press center gently with rounded end of stick 1 to cup.

8. Brush base of flower lightly with water. Attach calyx by gently pushing to flower.

9. Brush ball on wire with water and press flower to it. You may use the rounded end of stick 1 to push it on firmly.

10. Pipe three tiny stamens with royal icing and tube 1s. Now complete the four other bluebells in assembly-line fashion.

Baby's breath

This tiny flower gives lightness and airiness to any bouquet. Make them by the dozen—they're so quick to do.

You will need:

Untinted gum paste, a piece about ½" x ½" x ¼"
Rolling pin
Plastic wrap
Thin foam
Stick 2
Twelve 3" lengths of fine wire, tiny hook at end of each
Water and artist's brush
6" length of stiff wire
Floral tape

1. Roll out gum paste on greased surface to 1/32" thickness. Cut out twelve shapes with the lily of the valley cutter.

2. Place one shape on thin foam. Cover others with plastic wrap. Pull out each tiny petal from center to tip with stick 2.

3. Brush water on center of shape and fold in half.

4. Dip hook of a fine wire in water, shake off excess and lay on folded shape. Fold one side of the shape over the wire, then the other side. Make five more flowers.

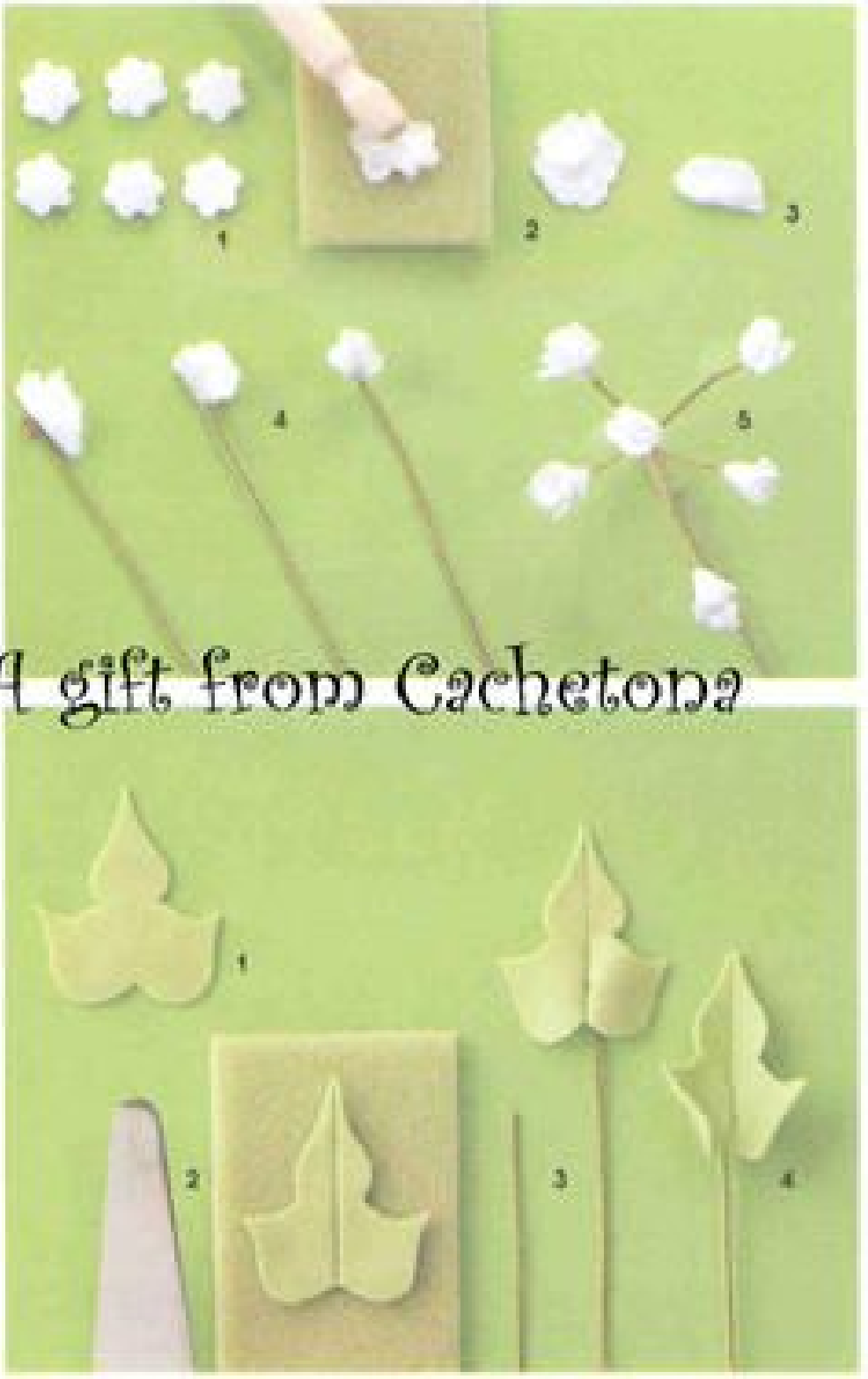
5. Bind stems of six flowers to stiff wire, using floral tape. Repeat for second cluster of baby's breath.

Ivy Leaf

A beautifully shaped leaf to set off many flowers. See it used in a corsage, page 31.

You will need:

Green gum paste, a piece about 1" x 1" x ¼"
Rolling pin
Ivy leaf cutter
Plastic wrap
Thin foam
Spatula
Six 6" lengths of fine wire
Water

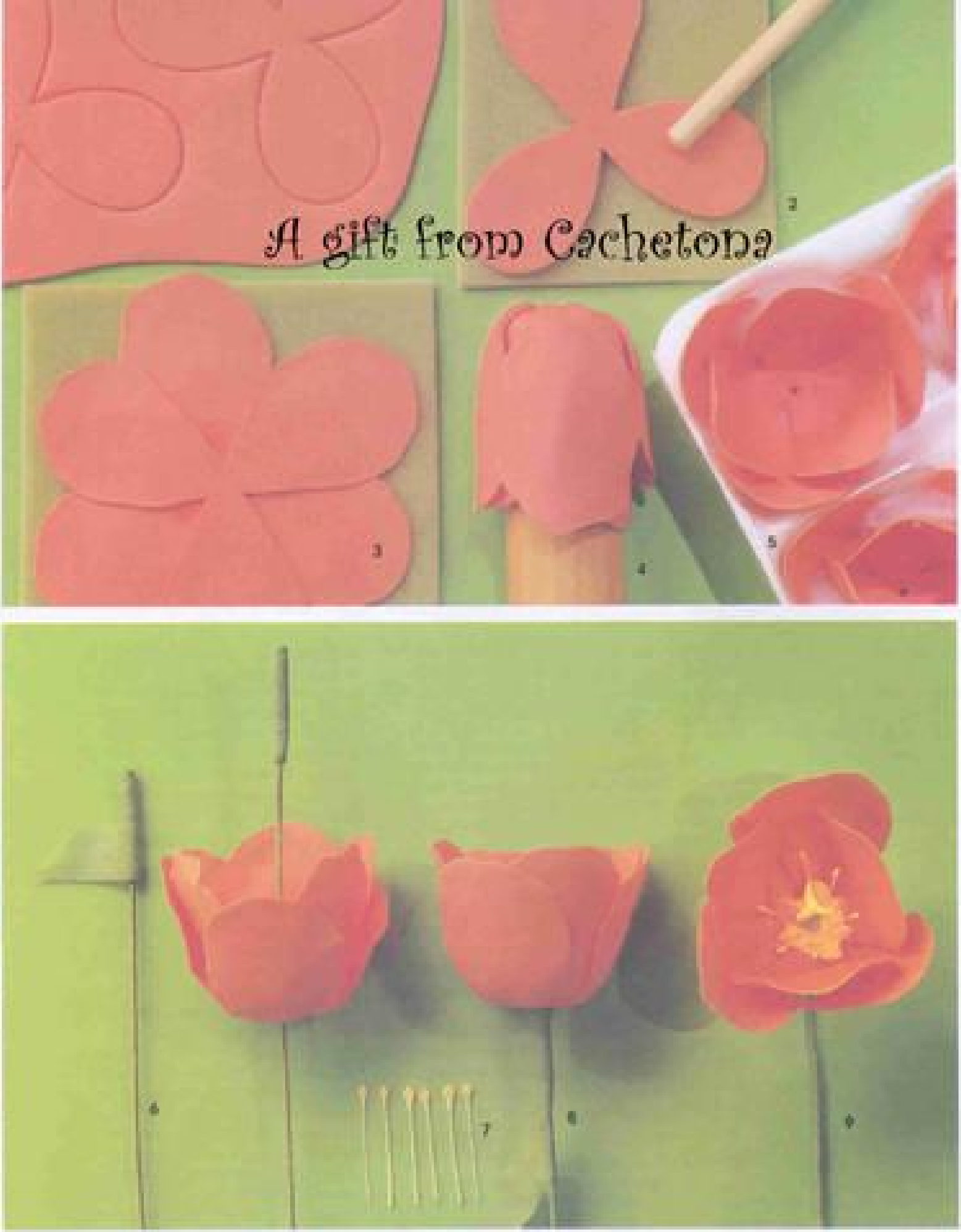


1. Roll out gum paste on greased surface as thin as possible. Cut out six shapes with the ivy leaf cutter. Lay one on thin foam. Cover others with plastic wrap.

2. Press center of shape lightly with a spatula to form a crease.

3. Dip end of a wire in water, shake off excess and lay on shape, about ¼" of the wire on the shape. Gently pinch leaf around wire.

4. Curve leaf with your fingers. Complete the five other leaves the same way.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Tulip

A big showy flower that's just a joy to create! Follow the steps—see how quickly the tulip goes together!

You will need:

Tinted gum paste, a piece about 1½"x1½"x½"
Rolling pin and stick 1
Tulip cutter
Thin foam square
Plastic wrap
Small glass of water and artist's brush
Empty egg carton, cover cut off
Cotton balls
Stiff wire cut in three 9" pieces
Floral tape
Small decorating bag or parchment cone
Tubes 17 and 1 and yellow royal icing
Artificial stamens

1. Roll out the gum paste on greased surface to about ⅛" thick. Cut out six shapes with the tulip cutter. Place one shape on the thin foam square—cover remainder with plastic wrap.

2. Roll edges of petals with stick 1 to thin, using the stick like a tiny rolling pin. Roll all around edge of each petal, leaving center of petals and center of flower shape unrolled. This will give the flower strength. Set aside. Roll a second shape on thin foam the same way.

3. Brush center area of flower shape you have just rolled with water. Lay the other rolled shape on it and gently press with your finger to attach. Make a tiny hole in center of flower with the pointed end of the stick.

4. Lay foam square on your palm, flower still lying on foam. Hold the end of the rolling pin over the center of the flower and turn rolling pin and foam upside down so flower drapes over end of rolling pin. Remove foam.

5. Cup the flower gently in your palm and lay it in the egg carton to dry overnight. Tuck bits of cotton between petals with the pointed end of the stick. This will give the flower a natural look.

6. Prepare center stamen on wire. Wind floral tape around end of wire so about 1" of the wire is covered. Cut off six artificial stamens to ½".

7. Pipe a tube 17 yellow royal icing star inside the flower in the center. Immediately push the prepared wire through the piped star and the hole in the flower. Hold the tulip gently in your palm, wire stem extending through fingers, while you push in artificial stamens. (See picture 9.)

8. Now, starting just at the base of the tulip, wind floral tape smoothly around wire stem. This will hold the flower securely on its stem.

9. As a final touch, pipe three icing strokes with tube 1 on the end of the center stamen.

Make two more tulips with the remaining cut-out shapes. First form both flowers through Step 5 and dry. Prepare center stamens on two wires, then assemble both flowers (Steps 7 through 9). With a little practice, you will be able to cut out, then assemble, six or more tulips at a time.

The tulip leaf

1. Cut a 3" length of stiff wire and bend a hook at one end. Roll out a piece of green gum paste about 1½"x1½"x½" to ⅛" thickness. Cut out two shapes with the tulip leaf cutter. Place one on thin foam and cover other with plastic wrap.

2. Use stick 1 like a rolling pin to ripple and thin the edges. Roll lightly the length of the leaf on both sides.

3. Dip the hook of the wire into water. Lay the dipped portion on the base of the leaf and gently pinch the leaf around the wire. Lay in flower former and adjust the leaf in graceful curves with your fingers. Dry overnight.

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Adding leaves to your flowers

To make just the right leaf for your flower, observe fresh flowers or study the pictures in a seed catalog. Most leaves are cut with either a rose leaf cutter or a rose petal cutter—but you will also use the ivy leaf and tulip leaf cutters. All leaves are very quick and easy to make in the assembly-line method.

1. Roll out a small piece of green gum paste to about 1/16" thickness. Cut out. In this picture we used the largest rose petal cutter.

2. Roll the leaf to thin it, using stick 1 like a rolling pin. If you want a longer, slim leaf, roll it the length of the cut-out shape. For a broader leaf, roll across the width of the shape.

3. To vein your leaf, press it firmly on a leaf veiner.

4. Attach a stem to your leaf. Cut a 3" length of fine wire. Dip the end in water and shake off excess. Lay the wire on the center of leaf, only about ¼" to ⅜" of the wire extending on the leaf. Gently pinch the base of the leaf with your fingers, giving it gentle natural curves. Lay in a flower former to dry.

5. For a cluster of leaves, such as the characteristic three-leaf cluster of rose leaves, tape the stems smoothly together.

6. To attach leaves to a cluster of flowers, or to a single flower, just tape stems together.

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Impatiens

Practice making one, then finish a dozen flowers in about 15 minutes!

You will need:

Red or pink-tinted gum paste, a piece about 1½"x1½"x½"
Rolling pin
Wild rose cutter
Plastic wrap
Thin foam square
Sticks 1 and 2
Twelve 6" lengths of fine florist's wire, tiny hooks at ends
Water and artist's brush
Small decorating bag or cone
Tube 1 and royal icing
Styrofoam block

1. Roll out gum paste on greased surface about ⅛" thick. Cut out twelve shapes. Lay one shape on thin foam. Cover remaining shapes with plastic wrap.

2. Use stick 1 as a rolling pin to thin and enlarge the shape.

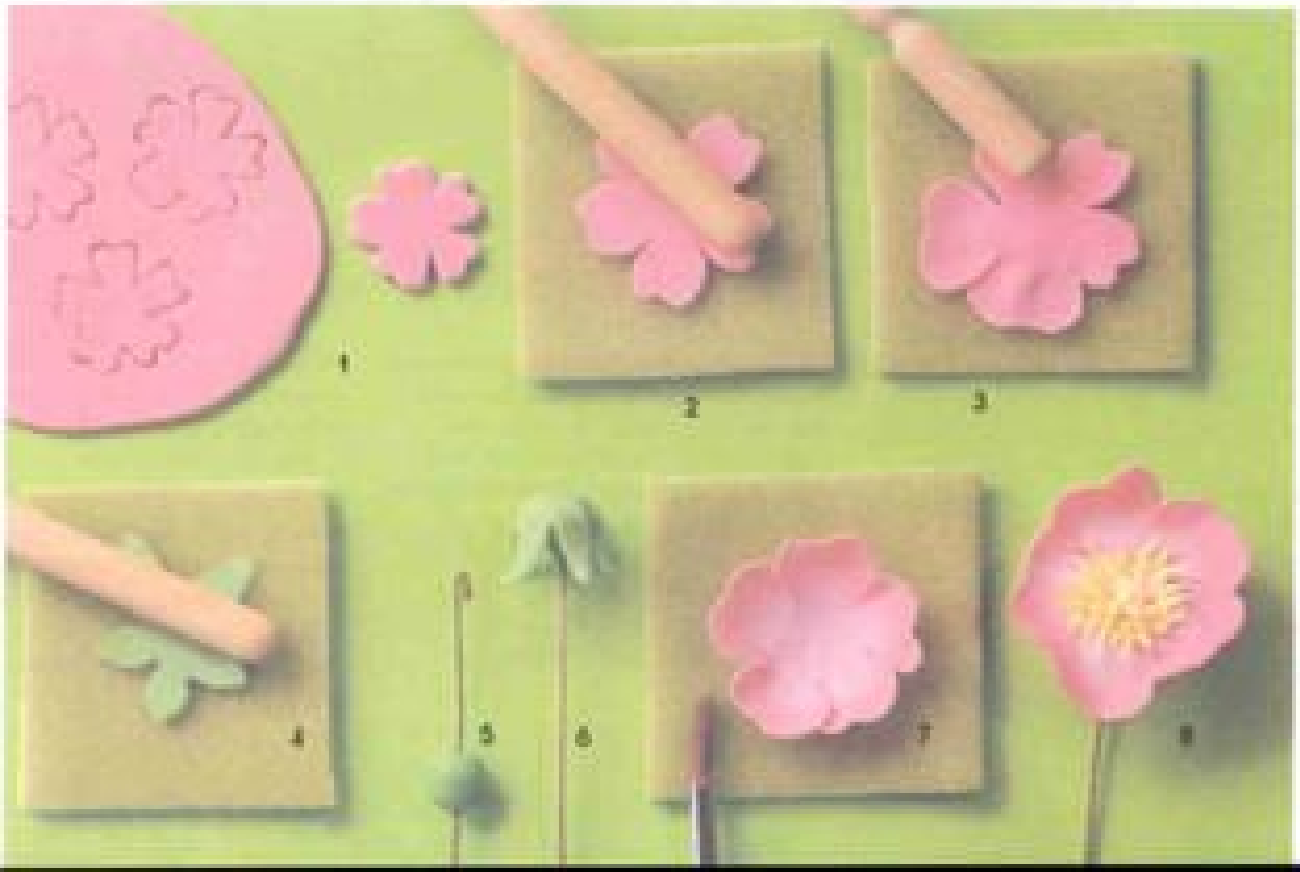
3. With stick 2, roll each petal from side to side to give a ripple to the petals. *Do not roll center.*

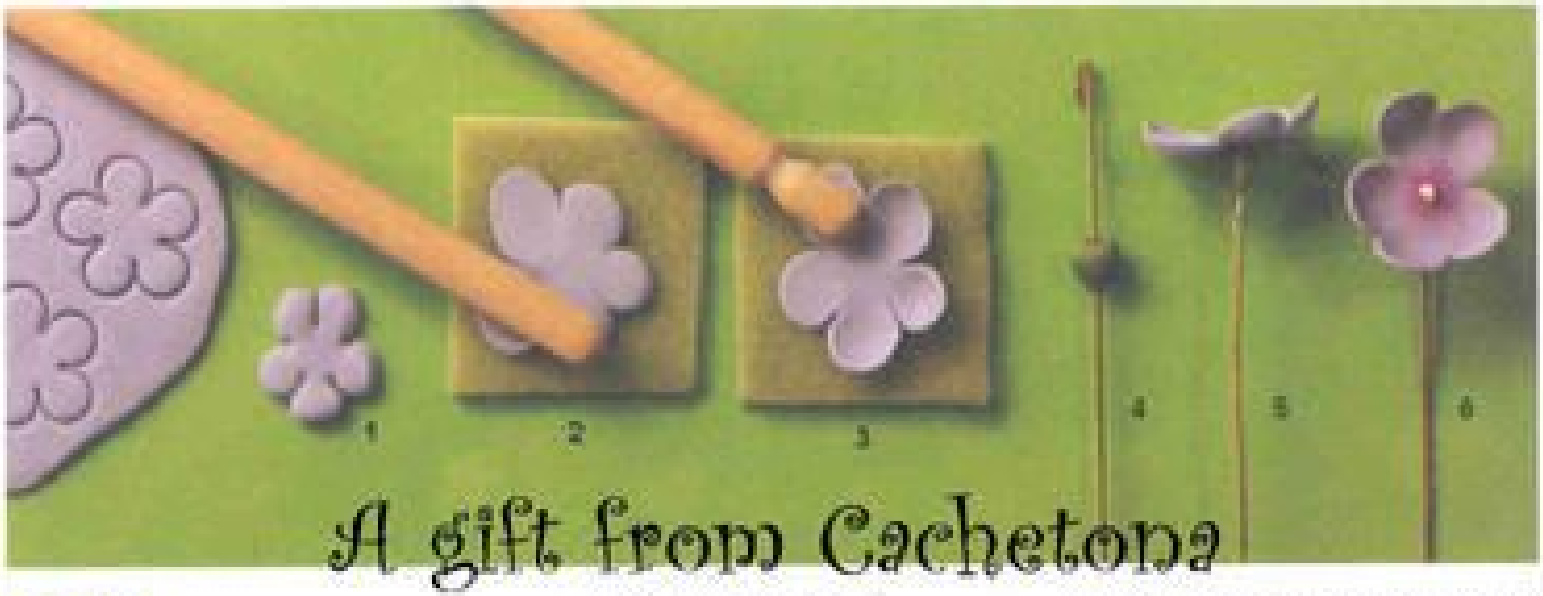
4. Prepare the stem. Make a ball of green gum paste about the size of a small pea by rolling with your fingers. Dip the hook of a wire in water and thread the ball up the wire until hook is buried.

5. Brush the top of the ball with water and gently press to flower. Press the ball with your fingers to flatten against the flower and taper around the stem.

6. Finish the flower by piping a tube 1 dot in the center for a stamen. Stick in styrofoam to dry.

Finish the other shapes all at once for a dozen impatiens. Do all shapes through Step 3, then prepare and attach all stems through Step 5. Pipe all stamens.





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Violet

You will need:

Violet-tinted gum paste, a piece about 1"x1"x⅛"
Rolling pin
Apple blossom cutter
Small spatula
Thin foam square
Plastic wrap
Sticks 1 and 2
Twelve 6" lengths of fine wire, each hooked at one end
Water in small glass
Purple chalk
Artist's brush
Decorating bag or cone
Tube 1 and royal icing
Styrofoam block

1. Roll out the gum paste to about ⅛" thick and cut out twelve shapes. Pick up one and gently push two of the petals together, leaving the other three undisturbed. Lay on thin foam and cover remaining shapes with plastic.

2. Use stick 1 like a little rolling pin to thin the flower.

3. Press the center of each petal lightly with stick 2 to cup.

4. Form a ball from green gum paste about the size of a small pea with your fingers. Dip hook on wire in water, then thread the ball on the wire until hook is buried.

5. Paint top of ball with water, then gently press flower to it. Work the ball with your fingers to shape.

6. Now make a stroke of purple chalk on a piece of paper. Run your brush across the stroke and brush the center of the flower. Finally pipe a yellow dot for stamen.

Very quickly complete the other violets. Roll and press all flowers. Add stems (Steps 4 and 5) to all, finish with chalk and stamens.

Wild rose *(at left)*

You will need:

Pink-tinted gum paste, a piece about 1"x1"x⅛"
Rolling pin
Wild rose cutter
Thin foam square
Sticks 1 and 2
Calyx cutter
Six 6" lengths of fine wire, each hooked at one end
Water in small glass
White chalk
Artist's brush
Decorating bag or cone
Tube 1 and royal icing
Styrofoam block

1. Roll out gum paste to almost ⅛" thickness. Cut out six shapes with the wild rose cutter. Place one on thin foam. Cover the rest of the shapes with plastic wrap.

2. Use stick 1 as a rolling pin to thin the shape.

3. With stick 2, roll each petal from side to side to broaden and ripple the petals. Do not roll center of flower. This will overlap petals.

4. Make calyx. Cut out with the calyx cutter from green gum paste rolled as thin as possible. Lay on thin foam and roll entire calyx with stick 1 to thin and elongate. Points will curl slightly.

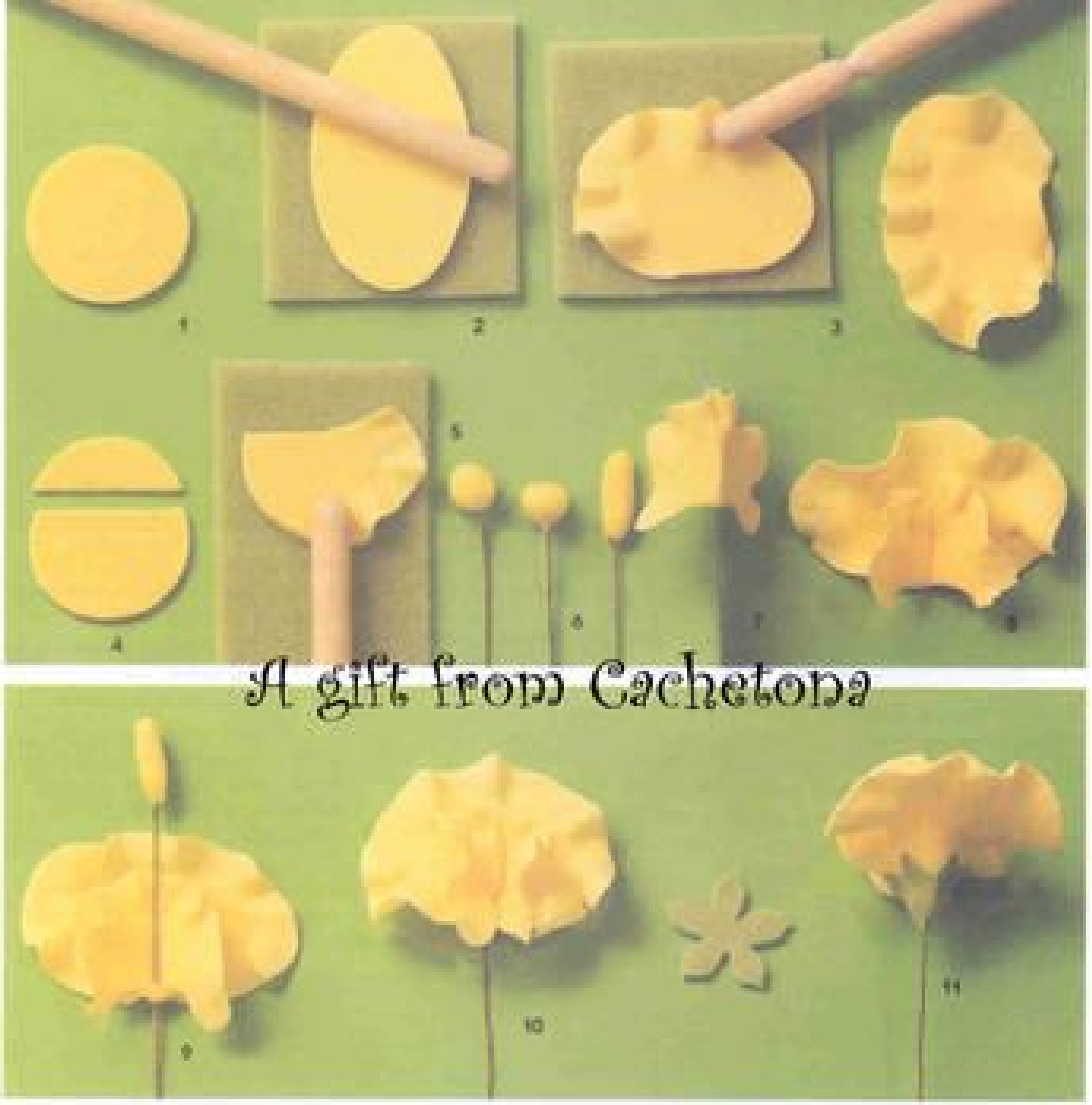
5. Form a ball of green gum paste the size of a small pea. Dip hooked end of a wire in water and thread the ball up the wire until hook is buried.

6. Paint top of ball with water, then lay calyx over it. Press lightly to attach, then touch points of calyx with pointed end of stick 1 to curl. Stick stem into styrofoam.

7. Stroke white chalk on paper. Run brush across chalk stroke and brush center of flower.

8. Brush top of calyx with water and gently press flower onto it. Pipe a tube 1 ball in center of flower, then pull out stamens.

Make five more flowers quickly. First roll and ripple petals (steps 2 and 3) on all. Prepare five calyxes and stems. Chalk all flowers, attach stems and pipe stamens.



Sweet pea

Just as sweet and delicate as the fresh flower! The sweet pea is new in gum paste and very easy to do. Make them in all the dainty tints of nature.

You will need:

Yellow-tinted gum paste, a piece about 2"x2"x¼"
Rolling pin
Small carnation cutter
Thin foam square
Plastic wrap
Sticks 1 and 2
Sharp knife
Water and artist's brush
Fine 6" lengths of stiff wire, a tiny hook at one end of each
Spatula
Calyx cutter and small amount of green gum paste
Styrofoam block

1. Roll out gum paste on greased surface to about ⅛" thickness. Cut out ten circles with the small carnation cutter. Lay one circle on a thin foam square. Cover others with plastic wrap.

2. Roll the circle in one direction only to thin and elongate it into an oval. Use stick 1 as a rolling pin.

3. Now give the edges of the oval a gentle ruffle, using either stick 1 or 2. Always ruffle on thin foam. Starting on one end of the oval, lay the stick on the edge and roll forward a short distance with gentle pressure. Now roll the stick back toward yourself a slightly greater distance, relaxing your pressure a little. Continue this back-and-forth movement with the stick to ruffle the oval. Turn the

foam square as you do. After practicing a little, you will find that ruffling is a very fast procedure. Note that the center of one side of the oval is left unruffled.

4. Remove another circle from under the plastic wrap. With a sharp knife, cut off about one-third of the circle and set aside.

5. Now ruffle the curved edge of the larger section, just as you ruffled in Step 3. Do not ruffle the straight edge.

6. Prepare stem. With your fingers, form the cut-off portion of the circle into a ball. Dip hooked end of wire in water. Thread the ball on the wire until the hook is buried. Now form the ball into a long oval by rolling it between your thumb and forefinger.

7. Gently fold the semi-petal you have just ruffled over the blade of a spatula, forming a crease.

8. Paint the crease with water, then gently press the semi-petal to the center of the oval petal.

9. Paint the back of the long oval on the wire with water. Thread the wire through the flower as shown in the picture.

10. Use the edge of the spatula to press the long oval, forming a crease. Pinch the petals to bring them together.

11. Finish the flower so it looks as perfect from the back as the front. Cut a calyx from green gum paste rolled as thin as possible. Brush center with water, then thread it up the stem to the flower. Gently form the calyx around the petals with your fingers. Stick stem in styrofoam to dry overnight.

Make four more sweet peas. Ruffle petals and semi-petals for all. Prepare four stems and attach to petals. Add calyxes to all. Each flower will appear different as you gently pinch and adjust the petals—all will have the airy grace of the fresh sweet pea.

How to display your finished flowers

Your beautiful hand-fashioned flowers may be arranged in a container to give any room a bit of color and beauty that will last for many months. Or use the flowers as exquisite cake decorations.

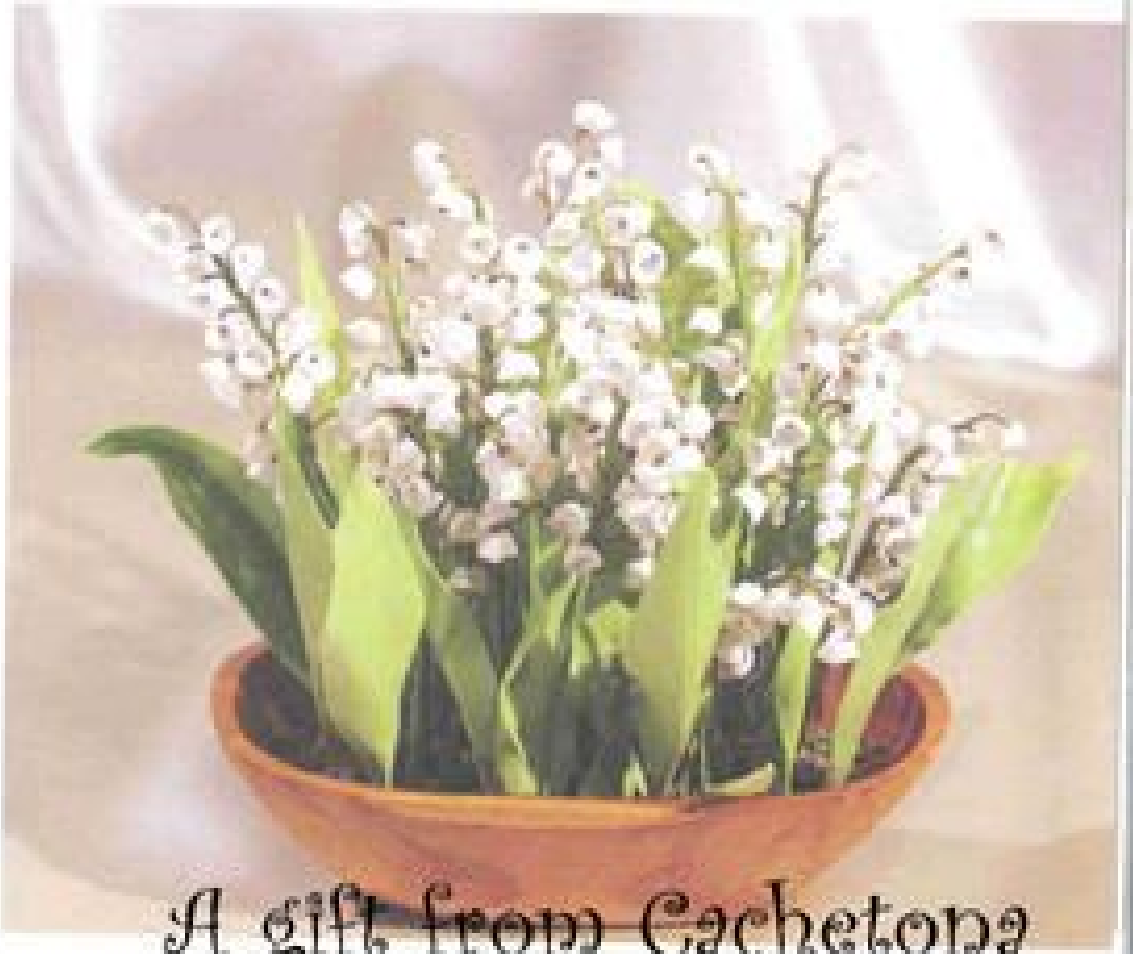
For arrangements, always spray the flowers at least twice with acrylic spray. This will give them a porcelain-like finish and protect them from humidity.

Select your container—a vase, flower pot, small basket, even a salad bowl. Cut a piece of 2" styrofoam or oasis (purchase at florist or florist's supply shop). Styrofoam is good for flowers with stiff wire stems. If your flowers have fine wire stems, use oasis. Wedge it into the container—it should fit tightly. For further security, use royal icing as glue to hold the styrofoam or oasis in place. To cover the surface, pipe curving lines, like spaghetti, with moss green royal icing.

Now arrange your gum paste flowers just as you would fresh flowers, sticking the stems into the styrofoam or oasis. Add appropriate leaves to fill out the bouquet. With care, your arrangement will last for years.

For dramatic cake trim, arrange the flowers in a small vase or bowl and place it between tiers or on top of the cake. These bouquets will be lasting souvenirs of the occasion.

Do not spray flowers put directly on the cake. Do not add wire stems to these blossoms. For a flower like the rose or stephanotis, where a wire stem is essential to the construction, clip it off at the base of the flower. (Remove these flowers before serving the cake.) Attach all flowers to the cake with dots of icing.



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